

VZCZCXRO7494
OO RUEHROV
DE RUEHJM #2276 3500809
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 160809Z DEC 09
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7013
RHEHAAA/WHITE HOUSE WASHDC
RHEHNSC/WHITE HOUSE NSC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RUEADWD/DA WASHINGTON DC//DAS-ZD/DACS-ZK//
RUEAHQA/CSAF WASHINGTON DC//POLAD//
RHMFIUU/CMC WASHINGTON DC
RHMFIUU/CNO WASHINGTON DC//POLAD//
INFO RUEHXX/ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE
RUEHTU/AMEMBASSY TUNIS 8006
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 4973
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 4823
RUEHNC/AMEMBASSY NICOSIA 6311
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 4742
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 3346

UNCLAS JERUSALEM 002276

SIPDIS

STATE PASS BBG
STATE FOR NEA, NEA/IPA, NEA/PPD
WHITE HOUSE FOR PRESS OFFICE, SIT ROOM
NSC
CMC WASHINGTON DC FOR POLAD

JERUSALEM ALSO FOR ICD
LONDON FOR HKANONA AND POL - TSOU
PARIS ALSO FOR POL
ROME FOR MFO

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PREL](#) [KMDR](#) [KPAL](#) [KWBG](#) [KPAO](#) [IS](#)

SUBJECT: JERUSALEM MEDIA REACTION (12/16): President Abbas
reiterates that the PA will not return to negotiations without a
complete cessation of settlement activity

Main Stories:

PLO Central Council Meeting

The three dailies lead with news on the opening session of the PLO Central Council Meeting in Ramallah yesterday. Palestinian Authority (PA) President Mahmoud Abbas is quoted saying that he won't run for re-election and accused Hamas of obstructing national reconciliation efforts by not signing the Egyptian proposal. He reiterated that the Palestinians will not resume negotiations with the Israelis without a complete cessation in settlement activity. Abbas also stated that the PA will not accept a Palestinian state with temporary borders, and noted that they will seek a UNSC resolution that recognizes the 1967 borders as the borders of the Palestinian state.

Khaled Misha'l in Iran:

PA official daily Al-Hayat Al-Jadida and independent Al-Ayyam front page news on the head of the Hamas Political Bureau Khaled Misha'l's visit to Iran yesterday. During a press conference in Tehran, Misha'l noted that the release of kidnapped Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit will be achieved only when Israel agrees to Hamas conditions regarding the deal, and is quoted saying "If Netanyahu and Israeli officials don't agree to our conditions, they will not see Shalit again."

Arrest Warrant Against Tzipi Livni

The dailies continue to report on the arrest warrant issued by a British court against former Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni for her involvement in Israel's assault on Gaza last winter. Independent daily Al-Ayyam front pages news citing AFP that Israel will not let Britain play a key role in the peace process unless the latter takes appropriate measures to prevent such warrants against Israeli officials. According to independent news outlet Maan, a statement was released by the Israeli Foreign Ministry stating that "Israel rejects the cynical legal move made in the British court against the Head of the Opposition, MK Tzipi Livni, at the behest of radical elements."

BLOCK QUOTES:

Hani Habib writing in Al-Ayyam under the title "The Central Council Restores its Role" opines that "President Abbas did not present anything new in the PLO Central Council meeting and nothing has changed in the Palestinian position regarding negotiations or elections ... However, what is new is that the PLO bodies are reclaiming their role, which was taken from them for many years."

RUBINSTEIN